



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS — 1999



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Organizational Structure and Operational Improvements



Executive Director Presentations to National Professional Organizations

During 1999, the Executive Director enhanced the perception of the agency through presentations to a number of state and national organizations, including the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), the Executive Director's Committee, the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) and the Arizona City/County Management Association (ACMA) among others. These presentations helped to inform others on many of the important programs and efforts of this organization.

Participation in Arizona Town Hall

The Executive Director participated in the Arizona Town Hall focusing on the topic "Unifying a Diverse Arizona." By doing so, people became better informed of the activities of Regional Councils and issues which are important to this region.



Articles Authored for National Publications

There is an increased emphasis within MAG on professional development and contributing to professional organizations as well as helping to inform nationwide professional groups about our activities. This included an article authored by the Executive Director for the ICMA journal *Public Management*, and a commentary by the Regional Development Manager in *Land Use Law and Zoning Digest*.

Completed Evaluations of Executive Director, Managers, and Staff

As part of the Executive Director's effort to provide appropriate leadership for the staff, foster excellent internal communication and continue the evaluation process in the agency, the staff anonymously evaluated the Executive Director. In addition, this past year the process was extended as the staff also completed evaluations for their managers. Additionally, personnel evaluations were completed for all staff members, providing important and timely feedback to employees on their performance. The results of all evaluations were very positive and useful.

Organizational Structure and Operational Improvements

Streamlined MAG Committee Structure and Process

At its January 1999 Retreat, the MAG Regional Council agreed that to provide a more proactive policy-making structure, we needed a more problem-specific and action-oriented decision-making process. To streamline the existing process, some MAG committees were thanked for their services and sunsetted. The focus then became workshops, forums and discussion groups. This approach allowed for broader involvement of local officials and other stakeholders from the private and public sector.

Implemented State of the Art Technology

Implemented state of the art modeling tools for land use, transportation and air quality, including land use models that provide analysis at very detailed levels of geography and transportation models that are extremely sensitive for transit and HOV lane analysis. Developed PM-10 modeling capability that leads the nation.



Developed Plan for a Regional Videoconferencing System to Link all MAG Member Agencies

The MAG Regional Videoconferencing System will implement videoconferencing technology to facilitate communication between MAG and its member agencies and help reduce congestion by eliminating the need to travel to as many meetings. The objectives of the system are to reduce travel, congestion and air quality emissions, and to increase regional collaboration and participation in the decision-making process. Further benefits include improved communications, wider agency participation, and increased public participation in the decision-making process. MAG will oversee the purchase, installation, service, support and training of videoconferencing equipment and network for member agencies. This videoconferencing equipment is to be installed at 28 sites throughout Maricopa County.

Enhanced Professional Staff Capability

Increased the technical resources available to this region by searching nationally for the most experienced and professionally trained staff to address complex urban modeling needs. Several people with Ph.D's were added to the staff, as were individuals with several years of land use modeling training. Having a well-trained modeling staff has allowed MAG to meet the land use, transportation and air quality challenges that have faced this region.

Organizational Structure and Operational Improvements



Evaluated and Upgraded MAG Equipment and Software to Ensure Y2K Compliance

MAG compiled a complete list of its vulnerable systems and then analyzed each identified system to determine whether the manufacturer claimed the system was compliant. Vulnerable systems that were not claimed as compliant or able to be made compliant were discarded. Staff applied any manufacturer-specified patches and tested operation whenever reasonable. Staff also made arrangements for unexpected failures by placing its critical systems on maintenance contracts and creating a Local Area Network (LAN) and Disaster Recovery Plan (see below).

Completed the MAG Local Area Network (LAN) and Telecommunications Disaster Recovery Plan

One of the findings in the 1999 audit indicated that MAG needed a Disaster Recovery Plan. In response, the MAG LAN and Telecommunications Disaster Recovery Plan was created. The Plan identifies contacts, an alternative location and procedures for recovering from minor and major disasters. The Plan will allow MAG to resume normal business operations as quickly as possible in the event of a disaster.

Implemented Full Scale Bulk Mail Procedures

Our bulk mailing volume has increased considerably over the past two years. Full scale bulk mail procedures have been implemented with an average savings of \$.145 per piece.

Negotiated Reduced Costs and Improved Local and Long Distance Telephone Service

Competition among telephone companies provided an opportunity to negotiate reduced rates for our long distance and local services. Long distance rates have been reduced by fifty percent and local and line connection charges have been reduced by nearly \$500.00 per month. In addition, we recently installed long distance call tracking software on our telephone system to further facilitate charge-back on long distance calls to various task codes.

Organizational Structure and Operational Improvements

Employee Appreciation Luncheon and Anniversary Award Presentations



Implemented an Employee Appreciation Day

A MAG Employee Appreciation Day and Anniversary Presentation were celebrated with a Mexican-themed fiesta. Awards were given to employees with 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service.

Offered Voluntary Benefits to Staff

New voluntary benefits were offered to staff, including Short-Term Disability, Portable Life Insurance, and Accidental Death & Dismemberment policies. A Family and Medical Leave policy was also written.

Professional Development

The staff initiated requests for a broad range of professional development and training programs over the past twelve months. Fiscal services related professional development programs include: joint training with ADOT and other MPOs on topics such as indirect cost plans and indirect

rate calculations, federal grants administration and DBE program compliance. Also, in an effort to promote professional development in governmental financial management, the agency hosted the Government Finance Officers Association's Certified Public Finance Officer exam for the second consecutive year. The growth and diversity of the agency's workforce prompted a request for training programs for all MAG employees on issues such as hostile work environments and sexual harassment in the workplace. As part of the agency's continuing efforts to promote employee professional development, annual personnel evaluations were conducted and the results documented for the third consecutive year. In addition, this year marks the agency's first efforts to conduct "360-degree" personnel evaluations of all the managers in an effort to promote further professional growth and to improve working conditions.

In-House Training was Provided to Staff for a Number of MAG-Related Topics

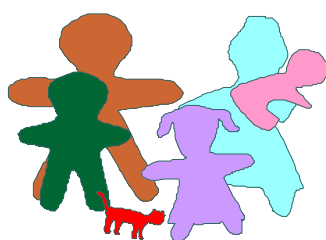
These training sessions included developing computer presentations for MAG meetings using templates; setting up and using the computer and projector; describing the policy and technical aspects of telecommuting; and using the in-house developed news clips database. Training on population, land use and transportation modeling was also given.

Fiscal Management



Awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The agency's financial reporting accomplishments were acknowledged by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) with the awarding of the Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the agency's June 30, 1998 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The progress continued in FY 1999 with the completion of the June 30, 1999 CAFR within five months of the fiscal year end. The staff also made progress in addressing the management letter and Single Audit comments from the June 30, 1998 CAFR. During the year, the staff began to address the agency's most significant audit finding, the lack of an integrated financial management system. A new financial software system was selected and an aggressive implementation schedule was adopted. The completion of this project will be the single most important effort to improve MAG's financial management and reporting. Another critical audit finding was addressed with the development of written financial policies and procedures covering such key financial areas as procurement, grant management, fixed asset management, payroll and budgeting.



1995 Special Census

Completed Special Fiscal Projects

During 1999, several special projects were completed, many of which were first time efforts for the agency. The special projects completed during the year include closing-out the 1995 Special Census with the member-agencies and ADOT and completing a comprehensive evaluation of the agency's insurance coverage that resulted in the acquisition of a Directors and Officers insurance policy. During the year, the staff completed the agency's first indirect cost plan and indirect cost rate according to OMB Circular A-87 guidelines. An indirect cost plan and rate are requirements for the reimbursement of indirect costs under federal grants. In response to an audit finding, the staff developed the agency's first written financial policies and procedures.

Updated the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

The agency's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program was updated and revised to comply with the recently enacted US Department of Transportation requirements. As part of the updating process, MAG's draft program was posted on the agency's Web site for public review and comment. The plan was also submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and ADOT for review. The new program will substantially increase the agency's administrative, compliance and reporting requirements. Representatives from FHWA, ADOT and the MAG fiscal staff held an in-house training session to educate the MAG managers and program managers about our new DBE program. MAG's revised DBE program went into effect on October 1, 1999.



Completed Revised Contract with ADOT

The agency's long-standing Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) contract with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), which outlines the terms and conditions under which the agency must administer the federal and state planning funds it receives, expired on September 30, 1999. The expiration of this important contract provided MAG with an opportunity to completely revise the outdated multi-year MPO contract. This was the first time in more than 10 years the contract had been updated by ADOT. The new contract offers the agency efficiencies in the administration of our various programs funded under the contract. It also reflects our ongoing effort to foster a partnership with ADOT in the spirit of the federal TEA-21 legislation.



Implemented Financial Management Software

During the past year, the search for a new financial management system was completed and Protrax software by Axium Incorporated was selected. The staff began the conversion and implementation of several core modules of the new financial management software system. In addition, key members of the fiscal staff attended local and national training on the new financial management software system. The implementation of the new financial management system will play a vital part in improving the internal financial management and external financial reporting of the agency.

Communications and Agency Outreach



Collaborated with other Metropolitan Regions

For the second year, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) collaborated with the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) in sponsoring a joint meeting between the two agencies. This meeting is conducted to focus on the common ground of the two urban areas and to work in concert to achieve common objectives. The first meeting of our two agencies resulted in increased transportation funding. The second meeting, held this year, focused on Growing Smarter issues and Transportation funding estimates.

Partnered with Business Community

Continued to have the organization be an active participating member in several community organizations, including:

- Arizona Chamber of Commerce
- East Valley Partnership
- Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
- Valley Forward Association
- Highway Users Federation
- WESTMARC



Partnered with Governmental Agencies

Participated with the MAG member agencies in several forums to increase the dialogue regarding regional issues. These groups include the West Valley Mayors and Managers, East Valley Mayors and Managers, Arizona Town Halls, the League of Arizona Cities and Towns and the Arizona City/County Management Association. In many instances, multiple presentations were made to these groups.

Participated in the Governor's Ozone Alert Program

MAG came forward as the key financial sponsor (\$300,000) for the Governor's Ozone Alert Program. In partnership with the business community, this program resulted in no exceedances of the ozone standard for the Summer. The MAG staff averaged 53 percent alternate mode usage on High Pollution Advisory Days.

Communications and Agency Outreach



Conducted Two Issue Forums for Regional Clean Cities Stakeholders

In July 1999, MAG and the Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office conducted a workshop to identify potential topics for a series of issue forums. The topics identified were Repairing Alternative Fuel Vehicles; Funding for Alternative Fuel Vehicles; Increasing the Number of Alternative Fueling Sites; Increasing the Number of Off-Road Alternative Fuel Vehicles; Cost of Alternative Fuel Vehicles; and Creating Awareness of Alternative Vehicles. To accommodate the September deadlines for a state grant and federal funds, the Funding for Alternative Fuel Vehicles forum was conducted in September 1999. The second issue forum on Repairing Alternative Fuel Vehicles was conducted in October 1999. Approximately forty stakeholders attended each forum.



REGIONAL RECYCLING
INFORMATION
EXCHANGE

Unveiled the Regional Recycling Information Exchange Project to Help Solid Waste Planners

Funded through a grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Regional Recycling Information Exchange Project is designated to provide cities, solid waste planners and the public with information that will help communities develop viable recycling programs. The project had four main goals: to encourage the development of recycling programs, to establish a recycling Web site, to hold regional forums to discuss recycling and solid waste issues, and to provide a database to help track solid waste in Maricopa County. Communities can use the database to better manage their solid waste systems, improve recycling programs, save money and generate revenue.

Manager Appointed by Governor to Arizona Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission; Co-Chairman of Planning Committee

The MAG Human Services Manager was appointed by the Governor to the Arizona Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission, and serves as the Co-Chairman of the Planning Committee. During 1999, the grant review process for Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act funds was implemented at the local level, allowing representatives at the regional level to identify the priorities for each region.

Manager Appointed by Governor to Joint Legislative Task Force on Homelessness

The MAG Human Services Manager was appointed by the Governor to serve as a member of the Joint Legislative Task Force on Homelessness. This Task Force was created by statute to develop recommendations related to homelessness. Three subcommittees have been formed: prevention, behavioral health and supportive services.

Communications and Agency Outreach



Provided and Presented Information to the Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force

MAG staff actively participated in the Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force process. Meetings were attended and information was supplied on a wide range of related topics including the governing process, transportation plans, and funding needs. Presentations were made to the Task Force and each of its subcommittees — a special luncheon was held for members of the Task Force to meet with members of the MAG Regional Council.

Participated in Test of ITS Software

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) plans to make its ITS Turbo Architecture software available to MPOs and DOTs for developing state and regional ITS architectures. MAG participated in a Beta test of this software. All future federally-funded ITS projects are required to be consistent with the National ITS Architecture.



Conducted a Public Outreach Process to Receive Input on Transportation Issues from Stakeholders and the General Public

The adopted MAG public involvement process is divided into four phases: early input, mid-phase, final phase and continuous involvement. Program enhancements were enacted beginning with the FY 1999 Early Input Opportunity, and included the use of focus groups, stakeholder involvement and expanded outreach to Title VI (minority and low income) populations. The enhanced public involvement process involves transportation stakeholders as outlined in TEA-21. The input received during the enhanced input opportunity was incorporated into the development of early guidelines to guide project selection for the TIP and LRTP. The stakeholder involvement process was continued with the Mid-Phase Input Opportunity and a final public hearing was held in June. The FY 2000 Early Input process was held in 1999 and included reconvening stakeholders to identify projects and reassess guidelines. The outreach process to non-public organizations was expanded and members of the community were invited to provide comments to modal committees.

Co-sponsored a Conference on Safety and Mobility for Western States

The Federal Highway Administration, MAG and ADOT co-sponsored this conference. The conference addressed safety and mobility issues in general. Several sessions addressed pedestrian issues, mobility needs and concerns of the elderly. The one-day conference was attended by over 100 persons.

Communications and Agency Outreach



Prepared and Delivered Targeted Presentations of MAG Services

During the course of the year, it has been important to inform member agencies, private sector organizations and the public about the data MAG has available and the technical assistance MAG can provide through MAGIC. Several presentations were made at committees, seminars, conferences, member agency sites, and various organizations. Examples of groups reached are the Population Technical Advisory Committee, Urban Land Institute, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Arizona Geographic Information Council and Transportation Right of Way Conference.

Held MAGIC Advisory Forum to Solicit Input on Future Direction of MAGIC

When MAGIC was formed, the Regional Council identified the creation of an advisory group of Management Committee representatives and MAGIC data users. A Forum was held for this group to focus on future MAGIC data analysis and collection efforts as well as possible new markets and applications. Forum participants reviewed activities for FY1999, discussed existing data and possible update and enhancement activities, and held a dialogue on anticipated needs of member agencies and the community.



Held a Forum to Obtain Input from Videoconferencing Users on the Selection and Use of Videoconferencing Systems

The MAG Videoconferencing Forum was held on August 9, 1999 at Arizona State University in Tempe. The purpose of the Forum was to share experiences and obtain input from videoconferencing users on the selection and use of videoconferencing systems. There were four panelists at the forum and 33 people attending, representing both private and public sector agencies. Each panelist provided valuable input on their organization and videoconferencing system; how they selected their videoconferencing equipment, network and bridge; their experiences with implementation; and lessons learned.



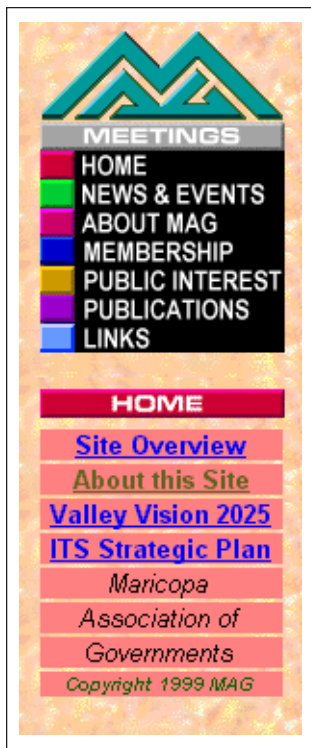
Redesigned, Updated and Maintained Valley Vision 2025 Web Site

The *Valley Vision 2025* Web site was redesigned and updated with meeting notices, public forum meetings, draft documents, and on-line presentations.

Created Web Sites for Major MAG Projects

Two additional hosted sites are the *Regional Recycling Information Exchange* (RRIE) Web site, which provides information about recycling options and methods to reduce waste in Maricopa County, and the *ITS Strategic Plan* Web site, which supports development of the ITS project.

Communications and Agency Outreach



Revised MAG Web Site Design

In 1999 the MAG Web site included new sections to keep the public informed on MAG activities. Pages added include those for press releases, requests for proposals, the Urban Atlas, the Regional Council Activity Report, the downloadable TIP data entry system, Y2K information, and more. Many on-line publications were also posted, including committee minutes and agendas, the Specifications and Details manual and the *MAGAZine* newsletter. Technical improvements include the ability to view the site in a non-frames mode, the use of pull-down menus, faster-loading graphics, rollover navigation buttons, and a more consistent design. The Web site includes over 3000 files and currently averages over 500 hits per week.

Continued Implementation of Strategic Communication Plan

MAG continued implementation of the Strategic Communication Plan, including: generating and increasing positive media coverage through targeted efforts; increasing name recognition among key publics through increased public outreach; developing consistent messages and graphic standards; increasing distribution of MAG materials such as information packets and newsletters; producing brochures, hotlines and other collateral materials; promoting use of the Internet as a means for communicating with key audiences; building a stronger base of advocacy among key publics through strategic communication measures; and improving internal communications.



Expanded and Improved MAGAZine

Improvements to MAG's quarterly newsletter included an improved 12-page format that highlights MAG news and events through stories, photographs and graphics. New standard human interest features were added, including "MAG Moment," a photograph that captures MAG employees in moments of dedication, fun or service. Paper stock was upgraded for a more professional look and circulation lists have been updated.

Worked With Valleywide Public Information Officers to Increase Recognition

To increase familiarity with MAG among member agencies, MAG worked to establish solid relationships with Valley public information officers. MAG's public communications program manager joined the Valleywide PIO team, participating in regular meetings and serving on the PIO Y2K Committee. The PIO Y2K Committee produced a brochure designed for universal distribution among cities to educate citizens about Y2K issues and to provide tips on preparing for the rollover. MAG hosted the quarterly Valleywide PIO meeting in September, which provided an opportunity for PIOs to learn more about MAG and included a tour of the MAG offices. In addition, MAG also worked with the PIO team on census issues.

Communications and Agency Outreach



Held Series of Y2K Forums

Acting on a request from city managers, MAG initiated a series of forums to provide information on issues involving the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem. This series of seven workshops included speakers and experts from a variety of venues, including major utilities (electric, gas, water and telephone); city and state disaster services; public information officers; the petroleum industry; 9-1-1 operations; liability experts; the banking industry; law enforcement/safety agencies; the retail grocery industry; hospitals and health care organizations; aviation and representatives for people with disabilities. Each forum also included roundtable discussions for cities to share information and best practices for dealing with Y2K.

Improved Media Relations

Through individual meetings with reporters, targeted press releases, widespread outreach and improved response times to queries, MAG significantly improved and expanded its media relations. This was evident in an increased amount of print and broadcast coverage and in “positive” news stories. A strategic campaign focusing on television and radio outlets to better educate the broadcast media about MAG’s roles and responsibilities led to a measurable increase in broadcast coverage of MAG events.



Continued Distribution of Regional Council Activity Reports

Initiated one year ago to serve member agencies, this monthly report is a synopsis of the discussions and actions taken during Regional Council meetings. It is designed to provide information to city managers, council members and other staff who have a vital interest in the outcome of Council actions but who are unable to attend the meetings. It also includes information about upcoming items and events, allowing interested parties to prepare for and participate in regional activities.

Implemented Comprehensive News Clip Tracking System

Because MAG’s broad-based membership and wide-ranging roles and responsibilities make the purchase of standard news clipping services difficult, we have developed our own news clip tracking system and database. This includes a unique Web-based tracking system (which searches hundreds of newspapers, magazines and on-line publications) in which news items of both local and national interest are captured on-line and downloaded into a MAG database. Accessible to all MAG staff, the database includes the story’s headline, byline, synopsis, publication name and publication date. News clips not available online are also tracked, reproduced and entered into the database. All clips are additionally made available in hard copy format.

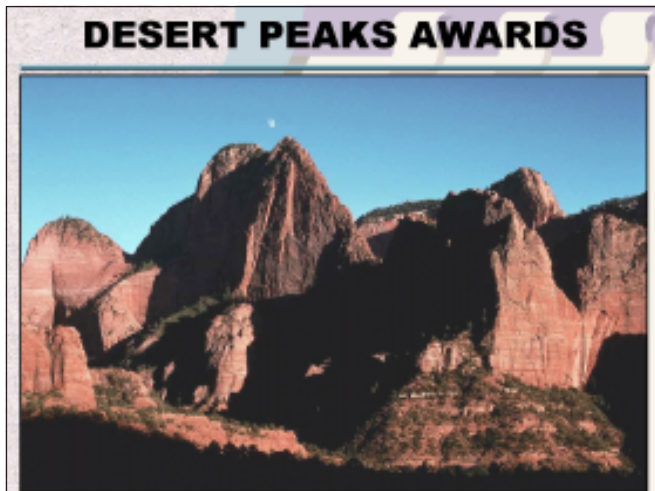
Communications and Agency Outreach



Held the Second Annual Desert Peaks Awards Dinner

The Desert Peaks Awards Dinner was held on June 23, 1999 at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Phoenix in conjunction with the MAG Regional Council Meeting. These awards were established to recognize individuals and groups that have contributed to the concept of regionalism through cooperative efforts. They showed that by working together, impressive results can

transcend jurisdictional boundaries and provide better use of resources and service delivery to citizens. MAG Executive Director James Bourey delivered the 1999 State of the Region report for Mayor Neil Giuliano. The report was compiled by MAG staff and included statistics summarizing the status of the region in key areas, major accomplishments completed over the past year, as well as key challenges ahead. MAG staff organized the event, including providing administrative and technical support, graphic materials and presentations. The evening was attended by nearly 300 people and engendered much positive feedback.



Program Accomplishments

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

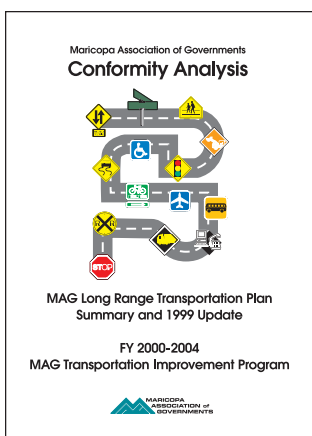


Completed the MAG 1999 Serious Area Carbon Monoxide Plan for the Maricopa County Non-attainment Area

In June 1999, the Regional Council adopted the MAG 1999 Serious Area Carbon Monoxide Plan which contains 56 air quality measures designed to attain the standard by December 31, 2000. Key measures included in the plan are: California Air Resources Board (CARB) Phase 2 Reformulated Gasoline During the Winter Months; Phased-In Cutpoints for the I/M 240 Vehicle Emissions Test; Traffic Synchronization; Intelligent Transportation Systems; One-Time Waiver From the Vehicle Emissions Test; and other Transportation Control Measures. Also, there have been no violations of the carbon monoxide standard since January 1996.

Completed the MAG 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10 for the Maricopa County Nonattainment Area

The MAG 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10 was adopted by the Regional Council in June 1999. Collectively, the plan contains 77 air quality measures designed to attain the standard by December 31, 2006. Key measures included in the plan are: Strengthened and Better Enforcement of Fugitive Dust Control Rules; Reduce Particulate Emissions from Unpaved Roads and Alleys; PM-10 Efficient Street Sweepers; Curbing, Paving, or Stabilizing Shoulders on Paved Roads; PM-10 Episode Thresholds; Restaurant Charbroiler Controls; Clean Burning Gasoline; Pre-1988 Heavy-Duty Diesel Commercial Vehicle Standards; and Coordinate Traffic Signal Systems.



Completed Conformity Finding for the FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan Summary and 1999 Update

Rallied the Governor's Office and the Legislature to take action to protect the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program from sunseting to ensure that this key measure could be used in the MAG air quality modeling efforts for conformity. The conformity finding was completed by MAG staff in April 1999 and approved by the Regional Council in June 1999, after a public hearing held on June 1, 1999. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal

Program Accomplishments

Transit Administration (FTA) made a joint finding of conformity for the MAG FY 2000-2004 Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan Summary and 1999 Update in a letter dated June 10, 1999. Under federal regulations, transportation projects cannot be approved unless they are from a conforming regional transportation plan and improvement program.



Reaffirmed Conformity Finding for the Current Approved 1998 Conformity Finding for the FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan

Took immediate action to ensure that the air quality conformity finding for this region did not lapse due to a precedent-setting national court ruling. Mobilized the MAG staff to rapidly reaffirm the conformity finding, and worked as a team with the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Arizona Department of Transportation and Governor's Office to avoid a conformity lapse that was suffered by other MPO's. In a letter dated April 29, 1999, the Federal Highway Administration, in coordination with the Federal Transit Administration, reaffirmed the approval of the October 20, 1998 conformity finding for the MAG regional transportation plan and FY 1999-2003 TIP. The reaffirmation was necessary to ensure that the regional transportation program would not be placed in a lapse due to the March 2, 1999 court ruling. As a result of these efforts, no projects were affected.

Conducted Consultation on Conformity Assessments, Processes, and Regionally Significant Projects

Regulations require MAG to consult with federal, state, and local air quality and transportation agencies regarding various conformity processes. MAG reviewed projects for compliance with the federal conformity rule and completed conformity assessments as required. Conformity assessments were transmitted to the agencies and other interested parties for consultation purposes. In addition, MAG consulted on the designation of transportation projects as regionally significant for conformity purposes in accordance with Arizona conformity rules.

Completed Emission Reduction Assessment of Proposed Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Projects Submitted for the FY 2001-2005 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

In accordance with new Federal Highway Administration guidance, MAG staff conducted an emission reduction assessment for proposed Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects submitted for the FY 2001-2005 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. The emission reduction and corresponding emission reduction per CMAQ dollar results of the projects analyzed were presented to various MAG modal committees for use in prioritizing projects for funding.

Program Accomplishments

Completed the 1999 Brown Cloud Project for the Maricopa Association of Governments Area

Completed a nationally significant project to clean up the visible air pollution in this region. This study incorporated the latest policy direction from the Environmental Protection Agency and will place statewide attention on the need for cleaner burning diesel fuel.

The project was designed to review existing source data and identify potential measures to reduce the visible brown cloud. The report includes information on brown clouds in Western urban areas; the brown cloud in Maricopa County; emission sources contributing to the brown cloud; and potential control measures to decrease the brown cloud. The report applies the current control measure being implemented by the federal, state, and local governments to the various source categories and then recommends six potential control measures to be evaluated by the respective implementing entities. In addition to the six recommended measures, there are two measures suggested for further study. It is important to note that the 1999 Brown Cloud Project is not intended as a State Implementation Plan revision for any air pollutant, including PM-10 and PM-2.5.



Received an award for \$100,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy for Alternative Fuel Vehicles

In April 1999, MAG completed a grant proposal on behalf of the MAG Clean Cities stakeholders. In September 1999, the U.S. Department of Energy notified MAG that MAG stakeholders will receive \$100,000 for the Advancing the Use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles grant. The award recipients included eight MAG member agencies, two school districts, and one private company. This grant will provide assistance in purchasing 95 alternative fuel vehicles.



Provided Technical Assistance to Entities in Preparing MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendments

The MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan contains the desired wastewater treatment configuration for the Maricopa County area. In 1999, several entities inquired about adding new wastewater treatment facilities to the MAG 208 Plan, which is indicative of the high growth rate experienced by the region. This year, the MAG Regional Council approved two facilities for inclusion in the 208 Plan - the Blue Horizons Villages Wastewater Treatment Facility and the City of Phoenix Cave Creek Water Reclamation Facility.

HUMAN SERVICES

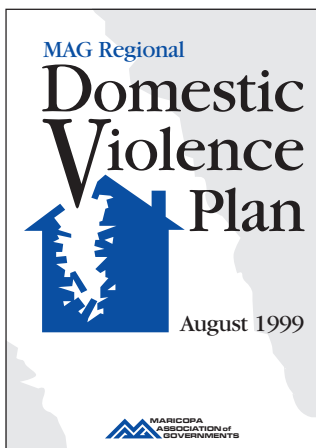


Completed Annual Human Services Plan and Reduction of Social Services Block Grant Funds

Each year, MAG completes an annual Human Services Plan. This year, we were required to reduce the planned amount of Social Services Block Grant funds by approximately \$800,000. These reductions affect all target groups, including children, adults, elderly and persons with disabilities.

Published Domestic Violence Safety Plan and Distributed over 200,000 Copies

The MAG Domestic Violence Subcommittee developed a safety plan to assist victims of domestic violence to be as safe as possible at home and at work. The brochure, written in English and Spanish, also includes information on items to take when fleeing the abuser. More than 200,000 copies of the brochure have been distributed



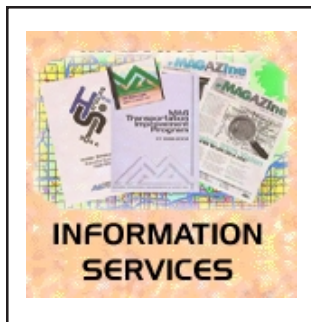
Published Domestic Violence Plan after Extensive Community Planning Process

A regional domestic violence plan was developed by 150 participants representing a wide range of community stakeholders. The plan was approved by the Regional Council in May. It contains 41 recommendations which focus on victim safety and batterer accountability, and includes strategies related to prevention and early intervention, crisis and transitional services, long term response and system coordination. A domestic violence coordinator will be hired to assist with the implementation of the regional plan.

Assumed Responsibility for Federal Continuum of Care Planning and Application Process for Competitive Funds for Homeless Programs

The federal government provides a significant amount of funds for homeless programs through the Stewart B. McKinney Act. A regional competitive grant is required. MAG was asked to assume responsibility for ensuring that a regional application was submitted in 2000. Staffing resources were provided by the Stardust Foundation and technical assistance by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

INFORMATION SERVICES



Conducted Public Input Processes for Human Services

To determine human services needs across the region, MAG collects information on a continuous basis. During the past year, the community councils and cities assisted in this process.

Completed a Successful First Year of Operation in the Maricopa Association of Governments Information Center (MAGIC)

The Maricopa Association of Governments Information Center (MAGIC) was established by the Regional Council in June 1998. The formation of MAGIC has encouraged the efficient utilization of existing data and information, making the specialized information and services more available to member agencies, private sector businesses, individuals and other public sector agencies. In the short time that MAGIC has been in operation, the clients have been numerous and varied, in both the public and private sectors. During the first year of operation, MAGIC customers included: 58 commercial customers for 88 maps and 27 datasets; 17 member agencies and 89 datasets; 14 consultants to member agencies and 55 datasets; 22 noncommercial customers and 48 datasets; and 11 consultant engagements.

Prepared Book of Maricopa Community Colleges District (MCCD) Planning Dataset.

Through MAGIC staff, created a targeted set of 22 maps for the Maricopa Community Colleges District (MCCD) planning activities, which were

incorporated into a glossy book. The maps, created using GIS, illustrated the benefit of using local information and standard base information. For example, maps were created of the distribution of population by age, race, and ethnicity in the region and were then compared with student information from MCCD for the same variables. These maps were therefore able to demonstrate the differences and similarities between the MCCD population and Maricopa County in general.



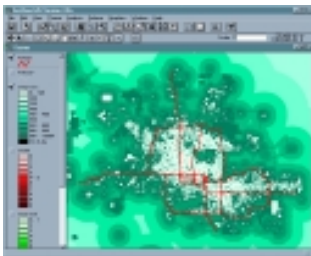
Program Accomplishments

Reviewed Population and Housing Projections in the Citizens Water Resources Service Area

Reviewed the population, housing and employment projections in the Citizens Water Resources study area. The review specifically focused on graphically depicting and understanding the base data and assumptions that were used to derive the officially adopted 1997 MAG housing unit and population projections. MAGIC also examined the changes that might be expected due to additional known development and revised municipality General Plans. Specific planning area zones were identified, additional data and assumptions were identified and all GIS coverages were updated accordingly. The new data will be used when MAG develops its next round of socioeconomic projections using the results of Census 2000 as the base.

Enhanced the Solid Waste Information Management System (SWIMS)

SWIMS was enhanced to include additional recycling options and the ability to map the information with a Geographic Information System (GIS). This required identifying potential materials for recycling, as well as the likelihood of recovering the materials from the waste stream over time. With SWIMS, various scenarios identifying different recycling rates may be generated and the cost effectiveness of the areas identified. This effort was partially funded by a Regional Recycling Information Exchange grant.



Prepared July 1, 1999 Municipality Resident Population Updates

These updates were prepared using data supplied and verified by member agencies and a method that has been used over the last nine years. The updates are used to allocate \$23 million in lottery funds to cities and towns each year. They are also used to calculate expenditure limitations where necessary. These updates were adopted by the MAG Regional Council.

Prepared July 1, 1998 Water Service Area Resident Population Updates

The Updates were prepared by MAG in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). ADWR uses the water service area updates to gauge compliance with per capita water use targets. MAG has worked with ADWR to provide these Updates for over ten years. These updates were adopted by the MAG Regional Council.

Prepared a Build-Out Scenario for Population, Employment and Housing by Traffic Analysis Zone

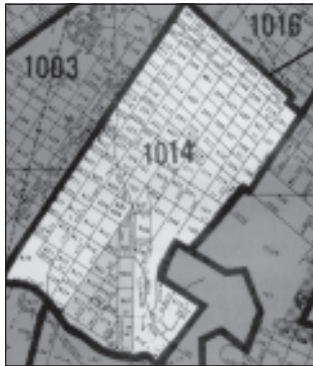
The build-out scenario will be used to test the enhanced MAG socioeconomic projections model for the next round of socioeconomic projections and can be used as a policy tool by member agencies to evaluate long-term needs.

Program Accomplishments



Achieved Enhancements to the 2000 Census

Through the Executive Director's participation in the U.S. Commerce Secretary's Census Advisory Committee, we were able to achieve significant improvements in the operations of the 2000 Census for the United States. These enhancements included the establishment of a new construction program which will provide this region the opportunity to include new construction up to the time of the 2000 Census. This will result in the addition of approximately 50,000 more dwelling units which will be mailed questionnaires. In addition, we have achieved an enhancement to the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) process by the Census Bureau agreeing to mail questionnaires to all households for which we submitted addresses, whether or not the Census Bureau has confirmed their existence.



Sample census tract

Prepared July 1, 1998 Population Updates by Census Tract

Using a Geographic Information System (GIS), staff aggregated the new housing units constructed, which had previously been geocoded, to Census Tracts to help the Census Bureau define its census personnel recruiting needs. In addition to assisting the Bureau in defining personnel needs, the updates will also assist member agencies with their review of address files for Census 2000.

Prepared a Block/Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) Equivalency Table

Staff used GIS and devoted a substantial amount of time to assigning a census block to each of the 1500+ traffic analysis zones. The equivalency table submitted to the Census Bureau will enable MAG to receive data by Traffic Analysis Zone from the Census Bureau.

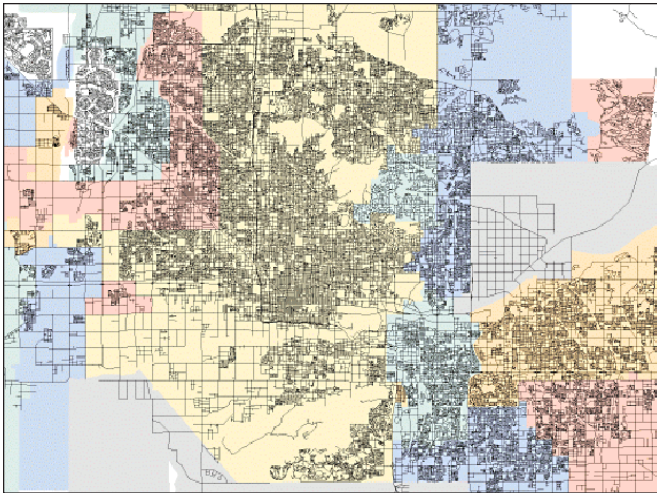
Prepared Housing Unit Estimates by Census Tract and Provided Them to Member Agencies

Using GIS, MAG staff aggregated new permits to the housing units already present in each census tract to derive a July 1, 1998 update. This update enabled member agencies to identify missing units in the Census Bureau's address files and facilitate their review for the update/leave area.

Developed New Traffic Analysis Zone System

Using a GIS system, growth projections, input from the transportation planning section and from MAG member agencies, MAG staff updated its Traffic Analysis Zone system. New zones were created where necessitated by growth and the boundaries of some were changed to reflect updated General Plans. The new system will be used for the next round of population and socioeconomic projections.

Program Accomplishments



Part of MAG Street Centerline GIS file

Enhanced the MAG Street Centerline File by Improving the Positional Accuracy of the Street Centerlines

Additional work was performed to ensure correct street names and address ranges. The MAG Street Centerline File contains approximately 140,000 links representing freeways, arterials, and residential streets within Maricopa County.

Enhanced the MAG Subarea Allocation Model for Developing Socioeconomic Projections

The ability to identify varying criteria for distributing population to small areas was expanded, as was the use of GIS for identifying assumptions, such as persons per household, occupancy rates, floor area ratios, and employees per thousand square feet.

Prepared Socioeconomic Data for the Update

This project will include defined data and methods necessary for the next round of socioeconomic projections, the enhancement of the MAG Street Centerline file, the establishment of employment and development databases, the creation of GIS coverages and the collection of other data that, along with the results of Census 2000, will form the base from which new projections will be developed. The Consultant will be selected by end of year.

Ran a Clinic to Help Staff Use Dial-Up Networking When Telecommuting

MAG allowed staff to bring in their home computers for scheduled appointments with the Network Administrator. The Network Administrator helped staff members set up their home computers to dial into MAG. This allowed staff who were uncomfortable performing the setup themselves to prepare their computers for telecommuting.

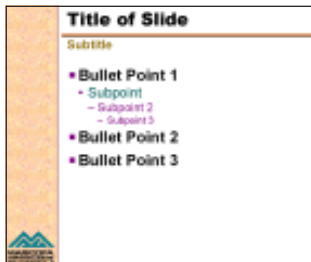


Introduced Pilot NT Workstations to Reduce Costs and Model Runtimes

The agency purchased pilot NT workstations for air quality, transportation and land use modeling to evaluate their performance as an alternative to UNIX and to prepare for changes in the application software market. NT workstations are significantly less expensive than UNIX workstations and allow MAG to retire UNIX equipment that is no longer capable of running complex models or which require expensive maintenance agreements. There has also been a move among application providers toward NT over UNIX. By moving to NT, staff is able to take advantage of the latest software tools.

Program Accomplishments

Transportation Modeling noticed a 50% decrease in model runtimes and was able to maintain that improved runtime with up to three models running simultaneously. Air Quality and Land Use Modeling are developing comprehensive testing procedures to see if NT workstations will provide them with a similar benefit.



Created Templates for Computer Presentations

Templates were designed for ongoing consistency of computer presentations. Templates include a basic MAG template, one for each of the MAG divisions, and one for Executive Director's reports. Other templates were designed for special events such as the Regional Council Retreat and Desert Peaks Awards.

Participated as Member of Phoenix Clean Air Initiative Team

The Phoenix Clean Air Initiative Team (PCAIT) is a coalition of concerned government and business organizations working to implement meaningful and successful measures to reduce ozone emissions, and to change behavior in the population to accomplish these goals. A key focus of the team in 1999 was to oversee and implement the "Governor's Ozone Alert" Program media campaign. MAG participated as a member of the team, providing input, collecting information, and forging valuable partnerships with members of the business community and air quality stakeholders.



Secured Federal Grant/Implemented "It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air" Campaign

MAG was selected as one of only 14 communities nationwide to participate as a demonstration community in "It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air," a federally-sponsored public education and information initiative to highlight the connection between transportation choices, congestion and air quality. Sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Transit Administration, MAG received a \$25,000 grant to support the program. Implementation began in July with the distribution of television Public Service Announcements promoting the initiative's three main messages of trip-chaining, alternative transportation and car maintenance to reduce congestion and pollution. Working with the Clean Air Campaign and the Phoenix Clean Air Initiative Team, MAG distributed thousands of campaign materials to more than 500,000 Valley employees. The theme was the focus of the winter pollution season kick-off press conference, which drew coverage from all major Valley news outlets.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Completed Reports and Draft Goal Statements for Valley Vision 2025

MAG facilitated the completion of the Valley Vision 2025 Draft Goal Statements which were coalesced into a framework of Valley Vision principles: people, place, prosperity and partnerships. The goals were presented at twelve forums held at various locations throughout the region. Citizen input from the forums will be incorporated into the final vision report, which will have progress measures for each goal and provide a road map for shaping a desirable future for this region.

Completed Draft Reports for Desert Spaces Implementation Task Force and Environmentally Sensitive Areas Policies and Design Guidelines

The Desert Spaces Implementation Task Force provides a series of recommendations to implement the MAG Desert Spaces Plan adopted in 1995. These recommendations include identification of funding sources, the formation of a citizen's committee and continued technical support from MAG Staff. The environmentally sensitive area policies will assist local, state and federal jurisdictions and the private sector in incorporating the conservation areas contained in the Desert Spaces Plan into their planning efforts. Both of these projects enlisted the participation of a wide variety of stakeholder groups. They were presented to the MAG Management Committee and Regional Council and will be considered for adoption in January 2000.



Tracked the Activities of the Growing Smarter and Citizens Growth Management Initiative

Staff made recommendations on potential policy implications. Working with intergovernmental representatives, planners and managers from MAG member agencies, staff developed eight principles of good planning for consideration by the Management Committee and Regional Council. These will be used in planning legislation policy discussions during the 2000 legislative session.

Program Accomplishments



Received a Grant through the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for the Agua Fria Corridor Plan

MAG received the first planning grant ever awarded through the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Enhancement Funds Program. The \$450,000 grant will be used to develop a non-motorized transportation plan for the West Valley Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor. The Corridor lies along the New River, from just north of the community of New River southward approximately 30 miles to its

confluence with the Agua Fria River, which it then follows 12 miles south to the Salt River. To assist with technical analysis and implementation, the work for this plan will be integrated with the development of the Agua Fria Water-course Master Plan initiated by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.



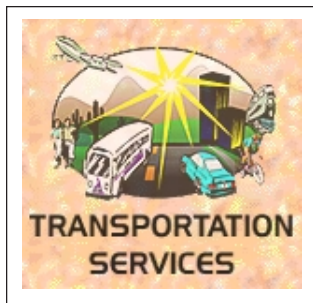
Completed the Regional Pedestrian Plan 2000

The MAG Pedestrian Plan 2000 provides guidance for future targeted activities and programs that will result in increasing the number of people in this region who walk instead of drive single occupant vehicles, and provides guidance for evaluating potential projects region-wide. The Plan also identifies actions and policies that will help the Working Group use existing and potential opportunities and bypass existing and potential constraints to increase the number of people who walk.

Received \$2.5 Million in Enhancement Funds for Projects in the Region

Five projects were selected by the State Transportation Enhancement Review Committee for funding. A multi-use path in Mesa along the Consolidated Canal will include security, rest areas, lighting and minor landscaping. A 1.5 mile segment of The Paseo in Chandler will provide alternative transportation, passive recreation and open space. Mesa also received funding for phase one of a pedestrian connection to encourage pedestrian travel in the downtown. The City of Phoenix sponsored a project to provide 16 neighborhood gateways under the I-17 freeway to improve safety. MAG also received a planning grant to develop a non-motorized transportation plan along the Agua Fria and New Rivers.

TRANSPORTATION

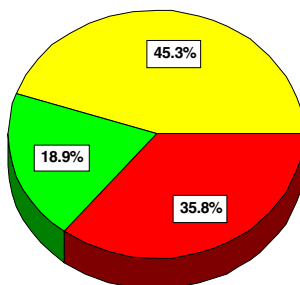


Completed 1999 Update of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan

MAG annually updates the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to reflect both the latest available information and results of the latest transportation studies. Principal plan changes included in the 1999 update were as follows:

- Accelerated completion of the regional freeway system from 2014 to 2007.
- Added additional widening of the Superstition Freeway east of Loop 101.
- Included early reconstruction of eight interchanges on Grand Avenue as part of an expressway concept.
- Added widening of the Estrella to four lanes from MC 85 to Grand.
- Included widening of State Route 85 from I-10 to I-8.
- Added a 39-mile light rail transit system.

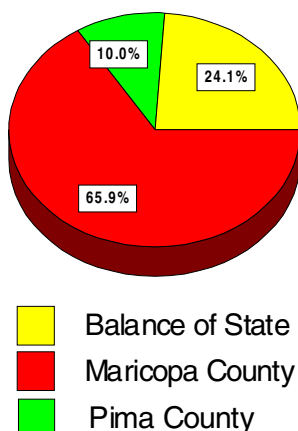
Allocation of ADOT Discretionary Funds Based on Fair Share



Programmed \$26 Million in MAG Federal Funds for New Alternative Mode Transportation Projects

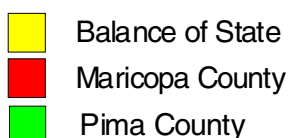
MAG receives an annual allocation of federal funds for transportation. A major portion of these funds is committed to completing new freeways. However, in 1999, new projects programmed also included \$10 million for bicycle/pedestrian projects, \$15 million for transit and \$1 million for demand management programs.

Adopted ADOT Program 2000-2004



Increased the Level of ADOT Funding Provided to the Region

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century requires that state transportation departments and metropolitan planning organizations work cooperatively to define funding levels and projects in metropolitan areas. MAG developed "Fair Share" information to show that a reasonable portion of transportation revenues raised in the region needed to be returned to the region. Intensive discussions were held with ADOT and other Councils of Governments concerning the State's commitment to fund transportation improvements in the MAG area, and as a result ADOT agreed to increase its commitment to the region. In 1999, ADOT provided an estimated of \$205 million for additional projects in the region. However, efforts will need to continue to bring the total five-year program up to the Fair Share level.



Program Accomplishments



Accelerated Completion of the Freeway Plan from 2014 to 2007

MAG developed a plan to accelerate completion of the freeway system from 2014 to 2007. The plan included a Fair Share contribution of ADOT funding and bonding of MAG federal funds. New freeways to be completed by 2007 include the Agua Fria, Pima, Price, Squaw Peak, Red Mountain, and the Santan. Also, eight grade separations are to be completed along Grand Avenue.

Developed an Agreement with ADOT on a New Planning and Programming Process (Casa Grande Resolves)

Collaborated with the Arizona Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Councils of Governments to transform the transportation programming process in Arizona to reflect the regional decision-making provisions embodied in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and its successor, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. A key component of the reformed process is the establishment of a Revenue Resource Allocation Committee to cooperatively determine revenue estimates for the two large urban areas and the rest of the state. Another key reform is the recognition of a regionally-based programming process for the MAG region, where cooperative programming decisions are made with MAG, ADOT and the RPTA. These are groundbreaking concepts for funding estimates and cooperative programming for MPO's across the nation.



Included Widening of SR 85 and Loop 303 in the MAG Plan and Program

Widening of S.R. 85 between I-10 and I-8, as well as widening of Loop 303 from Grand to M.C. 85 were included in the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan. Elements of these projects were included in the MAG Five Year Transportation Improvement Program. Portions of S.R. 85 were programmed for widening to reduce accidents, and interchange improvements on Loop 303 were programmed to smooth traffic flows.

Program Accomplishments

Completed Grand Avenue Major Investment Study (MIS)

The 1998 MAG Grand Avenue Corridor Study identified and analyzed fourteen options and short-listed three for more detailed consideration in the MIS, which was completed in late 1999. The MIS recommended that Option 4, Alternating Grade Separations, be implemented by 2006. This recommendation allows Grand Avenue to be further upgraded to expressway standards by controlling access and construction of additional grade separations as indicated in the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan.

Completed Draft of Agreement with ADOT for the First Issuance of Grant Anticipation Notes in Arizona for the Regional Freeway Program

Legislative authority was obtained in 1999 to issue Grant Anticipation Notes against MAG federal funds to accelerate completion of the MAG Freeway System. MAG has committed \$34.1 million in MAG federal funds each year to complete new freeways. The first notes were issued in the last quarter of 1999.

Completed and Presented the 1999 Annual Report for the MAG Regional Freeway Program

The report demonstrates that the freeway program is in balance and that projects are being completed close to the scheduled dates. The report documents the need to develop a single program for state highways in the region.



Completed a Long Range Transit Plan Update Including a New Funding Plan

The MAG Long Range Transit Plan was updated to reflect the latest planning studies. The plan includes tripling local bus service, tripling Dial-A-Ride service, quadrupling express bus service and a 39-mile light rail transit system. The cost of the plan is \$6.3 billion and requires increased revenues from local and regional sources.

Completed the MAG Fixed Guideway System Study

MAG completed a system level study of fixed guideway options in 1999. Options analyzed included light rail transit, commuter rail, busway/express bus and automated guideway. The study established the basis of the MAG Long Range Transit Plan which includes local bus service, express bus service and a light rail transit system.

Program Accomplishments



Incorporated two Major Investment Studies into the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan

Major Investment Studies were completed for high demand travel corridors between Central Phoenix and downtown Mesa and between Central Phoenix and downtown Glendale. The studies concluded that the preferred technology in these corridors was light rail transit (LRT). These studies were incorporated into the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan as part of a 39-mile LRT system.

Facilitated Preliminary Engineering for a Light Rail Starter Corridor

MAG contributed \$5 million in Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funds to complete preliminary engineering for a light rail transit system between Central Phoenix and the East Valley. MAG has supplied all modeling results for this effort and has been an active participant in the Agency Oversight process.

Provided Input on the Development of Local Airport Master Plans and Noise Studies

MAG staff participated in the advisory committees associated with a number of local airport planning efforts. In this capacity, staff provided input to ensure consistency between local airport planning efforts and the MAG Regional Aviation System Plan Update. Specifically, MAG staff addressed the Phoenix Sky Harbor Master Plan, the Phoenix Sky Harbor Noise Compatibility Study, the Williams Gateway Airport Noise Study, the Peoria Airport Site Selection Study and the Chandler Master Plan Update.



Received \$300,000 Grant to Update the MAG Regional Aviation System Plan and Implement the MAG Continuous Aviation Planning Process

The \$300,000 received from the FAA will be used to maintain the continuous aviation system planning process and to update the Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP). The update will identify airport improvements needed to meet future demand and policies to ensure the efficient functioning of the airport system.

Program Accomplishments



Enhanced MAG's Leadership Role in ITS Planning by Initiating a Regional ITS Strategic Plan and Integrating the AZTech Project

The first ITS Strategic Plan for the region was developed in 1995 utilizing a grant from USDOT. This plan was adopted by the MAG Regional Council in 1996. Since 1995 the pace of ITS related infrastructure implementation in the region has increased several fold, and a Strategic Plan update has been initiated. The plan update will develop a regional architecture and an implementation plan to guide development of regionally integrated systems. A proposal was submitted to USDOT by MAG for a grant of \$3.8 million for ITS Integration in the region.

Completed the MAG Special Transportation Needs Study

This study examined the transportation needs and program for low income and cash assistance clients, the frail elderly, and persons with disabilities. Through analysis of existing services and needs, both short and long-term transportation alternatives were recommended. These include eight management activities and twelve project activities. To date, results of the study were included in a regional application to the Federal Transit Administration for Access to Jobs funding which was successful in securing \$1 million to support two transportation projects targeting special needs populations.

Programmed \$750,000 in MAG Federal Funds for Maricopa County Work Links Program

Work Links is a 24 hour, 7 days a week transportation brokerage service targeted to low-income and cash assistance clients in Maricopa County. The project ensures transportation to and from jobs and child care facilities by linking participants with a diverse network of transportation services and providers. Over 38,000 cash assistance clients in Maricopa County face immediate requirements to find and retain employment due to changes in the welfare laws; 56 percent of these clients do not own cars. Failure to meet these requirements results in sanctions and eventual elimination of their cash benefits. The \$750,000 CMAQ funding will enable Work Links to serve an additional 1,000 individuals and families in need of this service to maintain self-sufficiency.

Facilitated Receipt of a \$1 million Federal Access to Jobs Grant

MAG acted as the convener and facilitator in developing a collaborative proposal to submit to the Federal Transit Administration for competitive grant funds targeted to low income residents of Maricopa County. The City of Phoenix, Maricopa County, the Department of Economic Security, the Regional Public Transit Authority and MAG developed a joint application for our region to broker transportation services countywide and to create a fixed-stop transit service in the southwest part of the Valley. Maricopa County, the lead agency in the project, will receive the \$1 million grant award in January 2000.

Program Accomplishments

Prioritized Projects for Section 5310 Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program

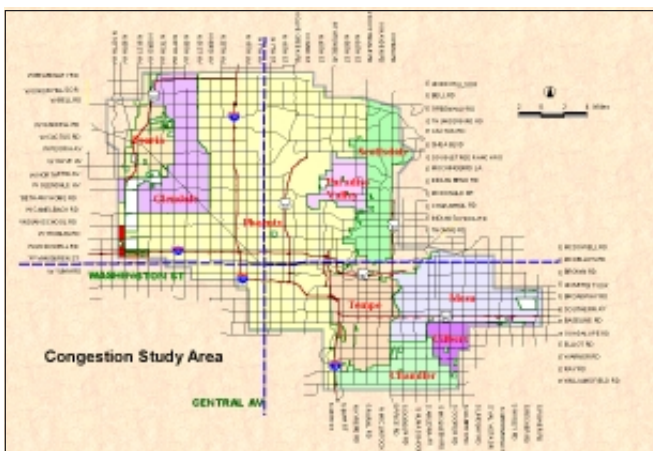
An ad hoc Committee of MAG, chaired by Ralph Velez, City Manager of Tolleson, reviewed and ranked twenty applications submitted to the Arizona Department of Transportation for funding of vehicles to transport elderly persons and those with disabilities. The grant review process identifies agencies with great unmet needs and recommends federal resources to purchase vans to transport their clients. The ranking was approved by the Regional Council on March 24, 1999.

Facilitated an Addition of \$1 Million in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Funds to Provide Transportation Assistance

As a member of the Joint Legislative Task Force on Welfare Reform's Transportation and Child Care Working Group, MAG staff assisted in garnering an additional \$1 million in state funding for transportation services targeted to welfare recipients. These funds can be utilized for an array of services to ensure mobility to and from work.

Developed New Mode Split Submodel for the MAG Transportation Model to Better Forecast Transit and Car Pool Travel

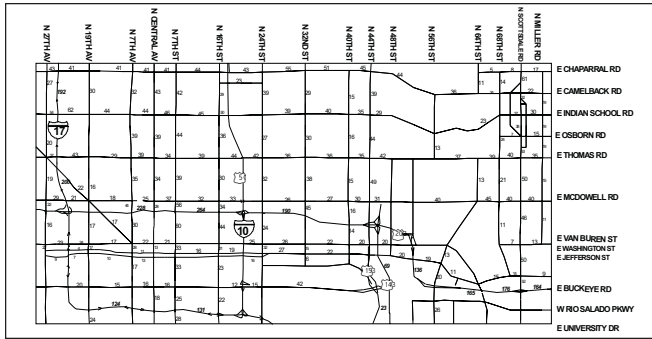
A new process to estimate mode choice was developed. This was done to improve light rail transit forecast, forecast HOT (high occupancy toll) lane usage and make the MAG Travel Demand Model more sensitive to land uses near transit service. In addition, other models were made more sophisticated to support the new mode choice model. These upgrades include provisions for predicting the number of vehicles that households own, the number of workers in households, the age of householders, and the income of workers.



Completed MAG Congestion Study

MAG has completed a detailed study of congestion in the region. Results will be used to analyze projects and to recalibrate the MAG transportation models to better simulate transportation conditions.

Program Accomplishments



Traffic Count Map Inset

Completed 1998 Traffic Count Map

MAG has completed a map of the most recent available current traffic volumes on major roads throughout the region. The results are used in the public sector to better manage roadways and by the private sector to make commercial decisions. Traffic counts are basic to all transportation planning and modeling.

Provided Transportation Modeling Service to Member Agencies for Over 70 Transportation Projects

Traffic and transit simulations were provided to member agencies and RPTA. This information was used for a variety of purposes including designing road and transit projects as well as estimating development fees.

Completed Survey of Stated Transportation Performances to Better Estimate LRT Transit Demand

MAG conducted a state preference survey to determine the likelihood of special event attendees to use various modes of travel. The survey data will then be used to refine the mode choice model.